

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (New): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases comprising:
a columnar body made of porous ceramic comprising through holes placed in parallel
with one another in a length direction with wall portion interposed therebetween; and
a part or all of said wall portion that separates said through holes functions as a filter
for collecting particulates,

wherein

a length l of a longest side in a cross section perpendicular to said length direction of
said through hole and a length L in the length direction of said columnar body satisfy: $60 \leq$
 $L/l \leq 500$, and
a surface roughness R_a (according to JIS B 0601) of the inner wall of said through
hole satisfies: $R_a < 100 \mu\text{m}$.

Claim 8 (New): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases comprising:
a columnar body made of porous ceramic comprising through holes placed in parallel
with one another in a length direction with wall portion interposed therebetween; and
a part or all of said wall portion that separates said through holes functions as a filter
for collecting particulates,

wherein

an area S of cross section perpendicular to a length direction of said through hole and
the length L in the length direction of said columnar body satisfy: $20 \leq L/S \leq 400$, and

a surface roughness Ra (according to JIS B 0601) of the inner wall of the through hole satisfies: $\text{Ra} < 100 \mu\text{m}$.

Claim 9 (New): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 7,

wherein

the surface roughness Ra (according to JIS B 0601) of the inner wall of the through hole satisfies: $1.0 \mu\text{m} < \text{Ra} < 100 \mu\text{m}$.

Claim 10 (New): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 8,

wherein

the surface roughness Ra (according to JIS B 0601) of the inner wall of the through hole satisfies: $1.0 \mu\text{m} < \text{Ra} < 100 \mu\text{m}$.

Claim 11 (New): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 7,

wherein

the columnar body comprises a plurality of rectangular columnar porous ceramic members combined through an adhesive layer, each of said columnar porous ceramic members comprising the through holes placed in parallel with one another in the length direction with the wall partition interposed therebetween.

Claim 12 (New): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 8,

wherein

the columnar body comprises a plurality of rectangular columnar porous ceramic members combined through an adhesive layer, each of said columnar porous ceramic member comprising the through holes placed in parallel with one another in the length direction with the wall partition interposed therebetween.

Claim 13 (New): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 7,

wherein

a catalyst is supported thereon.

Claim 14 (New): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 8,

wherein

a catalyst is supported thereon.

Claim 15 (New): An exhaust gas purifying device comprising:
a casing connected to an exhaust gas passage of an internal combustion engine; and
the honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 7 and heating means, which are equipped inside said casing,

wherein

upon carrying out a regenerating process for said honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases, gases heated by the heating means are flown into the honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases under conditions that: a flow-in rate is 0.3 m/sec or more; and an oxygen concentration is 6% or more.

Claim 16 (New): An exhaust gas purifying device comprising:
a casing connected to an exhaust gas passage of an internal combustion engine; and
the honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 8 and heating
means, which are equipped inside said casing,

wherein

upon carrying out a regenerating process for said honeycomb filter for purifying
exhaust gases, gases heated by the heating means are flown into the honeycomb filter for
purifying exhaust gases under conditions that: a flow-in rate is 0. 3 m/sec or more: and an
oxygen concentration is 6% or more.